

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments to Overcome Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8-10, 13, 17-19, 24-26 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,334,347 of Hollander ("Hollander"); rejected claim 16 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollander; rejected claims 4, 5, 20, and 21 as being unpatentable over Hollander in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0099569 of Lentz; rejected claims 6, 7, 11, 12, 22, 23, 27 and 28 as being unpatentable over Hollander in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0086422 of Elder; rejected claims 14 and 30 as being unpatentable over Hollander in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,817,276 of FencI; and rejected claim 15 as being unpatentable over Hollander in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,857,277 of Broomfield.

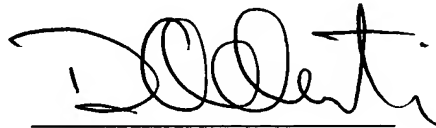
On April 27, 2005, Applicant and Applicant's undersigned attorney had a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss the §103 rejection relating to Hollander and Lentz, the affected claims, and potential amendments to overcome the rejection. The Applicant gratefully appreciates the telephone interview with Examiner McKane and her efforts in discussing potential amendments that would overcome the prior art in the present case. Independent claims 1 and 17 (and dependent claims 4, 5, 20 and 21) have been amended pursuant to these discussions. Specifically, claim 1 was amended to clarify that the controller is communicatively coupled to and monitors the "state of a vehicle component that affects a vehicle power supply," and "selectively activates and deactivates the at least one ultraviolet light source, based on the state of the vehicle component." As previously discussed, controlling the activation of the ultraviolet light source based on the state of a vehicle component affecting power supply is not taught by any of the prior art. Similarly, claim 17 was amended to recite monitoring the state of a vehicle component that affects vehicle power supply, and controlling the light source based on the state of the vehicle component. Dependent claims 4 and 20 recite that the component is an ignition switch, and dependent claims 5 and 21 recite that the component is an engine. Support for these limitations can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0034-35].

CONCLUSIONS

For all of the reasons set forth herein and discussed in the telephonic interview, Applicant respectfully asserts that all of claims 1-30 are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early reconsideration is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the following address or telephone number:

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Alberti', written over a horizontal line.

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